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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Special assistance to front-line States and other neighbouring States

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 49/21 M of 20 December 1994, entitled "Special assistance to front-line States and other neighbouring States", the General Assembly, inter alia, appealed to the international community to continue to extend assistance to the front-line States and other neighbouring States of southern Africa to enable them to overcome the negative consequences of past acts of destabilization in the region; requested the Secretary-General and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to respond to such requests for assistance as may be made by individual States or the appropriate regional organizations, and urged all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to respond favourably to such requests; and, requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in response to that request. It covers activities undertaken by Member States and organizations of the United Nations system based on the salient parts of the replies received by the Secretariat.

II. ACTION TAKEN TO ASSIST FRONT-LINE STATES AND OTHER NEIGHBOURING STATES

A. Replies received from Member States

1. China

2. The People's Republic of China provided disaster relief assistance to the front-line States and other neighbouring States since 1995: Lesotho, general goods valued at Y 800,000 and US$ 100,000 in cash for the purchase of grain; Mozambique, general goods valued at Y 5 million; Botswana, general goods valued at Y 2 million; Malawi, US$ 400,000 in cash from China Red Cross Society; Zimbabwe, general goods valued at Y 2 million; Zambia, US$ 2 million in cash for the purchase of grain and general goods valued at Y 1 million; and Angola, general goods valued at Y 5.3 million.

3. In 1994, the Chinese Government also provided humanitarian assistance to the following countries: Lesotho, general goods valued at Y 1 million; Tanzania, 200 tons of rice and a batch of other general goods; Malawi, US$ 50,000 in cash; Zimbabwe, general goods valued at Y 1 million; and Angola, general goods valued at Y 1 million.

2. Germany

4. Nutrition programmes in southern Africa were supported by funds in the amount of DM 79.1 million. Pledges towards Southern African Development Community (SADC) projects amounted to DM 30 million and bilateral development assistance rendered to SADC countries added up to DM 751.4 million.

5. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development financed the following SADC projects: Promotion of the Research and Training

Centre for Sorghum and Millet (DM 1.5 million); promotion of groundnut production in SADC countries (DM 3 million); support for the Regional Railway Workers' Training Programme (DM 5 million); adviser to the SADC secretariat (DM 2.5 million); human resource development in the SADC Region/public sector administration and development (DM 2 million); postgraduate training in the agricultural sector of the SADC Region/SACCAR (DM 6 million); and, Southern African Wildlife College (DM 10 million).

6. The German bilateral assistance to SADC countries in 1994-1995 was as follows: Angola, DM 7 million; Botswana, DM 8 million; Lesotho, DM 15 million; Malawi, DM 172.1 million; Mauritius, DM 4.5 million; Mozambique, DM 111.8 million; Namibia, DM 92 million; Swaziland, DM 3.2 million; United Republic of Tanzania, DM 126 million; Zambia, DM 136 million; and, Zimbabwe, DM 75.6 million.

3. Kuwait

7. The following is a summary account of the assistance provided by Kuwait to the States in question: Lesotho, total tied loans, 6,897,180 Kuwaiti dinars; Malawi, total technical assistance, 250,000 Kuwaiti dinars; Mozambique, total tied and technical loans, 15,350,000 Kuwaiti dinars and 426,068 Kuwaiti dinars, respectively; Angola, total and technical tied loans, 5,200,000 Kuwaiti dinars and 570,000 Kuwaiti dinars, respectively. Unpaid interest due on loans in the amount of 38,183,680 Kuwaiti dinars previously made available by Kuwait to Angola has been forgiven.

4. New Zealand

8. The primary focus of New Zealand Official Development Assistance is upon its immediate neighbours in the South Pacific. However, it is conscious of the needs of the former front-line States and has recently increased its aid allocation for Africa by 23 per cent to NZ$ 3 million for the 1996-1997 financial year. The former front-line States are among the principal recipients of this assistance. In addition to this, within the last 12 months, New Zealand has provided NZ$ 200,000 to relieve drought in Zimbabwe, NZ$ 250,000 for school reconstruction and agricultural rehabilitation in Mozambique and NZ$ 200,000 for seeds and tools in Angola from its Emergency and Disaster Relief allocation. The New Zealand Army has assisted with mine clearance in Angola and Mozambique. New Zealand's contributions to multilateral organizations active in the former front-line States have increased by 25 per cent in the last two years.

B. Replies received from organizations of the United Nations system

1. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

9. During the period under review, a technical assistance project for the Government of Mozambique was completed within the framework of the World Bank project "Roads and Coastal Shipping" (ROCS). The general objective of the

project, the Intermodal Transport and Customs Facilitation Programme, was to promote sustainable growth of Mozambican foreign trade by correcting the inefficiencies in the transport and trade system.

10. Based on earlier projects and with the financial support of the European Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) Training Development in the Field of Maritime Transport (TRAINMAR) programme has assisted Angola and Mozambique during the period under review to develop their capacity for training and human resource development in the area of maritime transport. In a two-year project spanning 1995-1996, full-time advisers have been based in the two countries and training centres with competent staff have been established with training programmes oriented to the needs of port managers and officials. Exchange programmes have been conducted between the two countries and 448 persons have been trained through the delivery of 30 courses conducted mainly by local personnel. The UNCTAD secretariat also led a team to study the privatization of the National Shipping Agency Company (NASACO) of the United Republic of Tanzania.

11. UNCTAD has continued to provide advisory and technical support to the SADC Industry and Trade Coordinating Division (SITCD) during the initial stages of its endeavour to elaborate a trade protocol to the SADC Treaty. Assistance has also been provided to SITCD through a project to analyse and develop strategic action for SADC member States, including the front-line States to enter into actual negotiations and drafting of the trade protocol. Assistance has further been provided to SITCD through a project to analyse and develop strategic action for SADC member States, including the front-line States, to cope with the results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the emerging international trading system.

2. United Nations Development Programme

12. As part of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) activities in the front-line and other neighbouring States, technical assistance is provided to the SADC member States in the following areas: (a) human resource development in the social sectors for the development of education, health, human settlements (housing), water and sanitation, grass-roots initiatives and popular participation; (b) institution-building for governance, public sector management and reform, aid coordination, economic and financial management; (c) productive areas such as agricultural and rural development, food security, private sector development including small-to-medium scale enterprises, employment creation, industrial development, promotion of science and technology, reconstruction of labour-intensive basic infrastructure (such as feeder roads); and (d) environment and natural resources management in terms of their protection, conservation and utilization, including combating deforestation and desertification.

13. Coordination has been carried out for emergency and humanitarian assistance activities in the case of countries that are in special development conditions such as Angola and Mozambique. UNDP and the Government of Angola are facing the challenge to move forward with the preparation of the grounds for the transition from a situation characterized predominantly by humanitarian assistance

activities to one dominated primarily by rehabilitation, reconstruction and development operations. In Mozambique, UNDP and the Government are moving ahead with rehabilitation and development activities. For these countries, Trust Funds have been set up under the management of UNDP.

14. In terms of disaster mitigation, UNDP provided emergency assistance as follows: Angola - support to the demining unit; Botswana - drought relief monitoring and coordination and the strengthening of national capacity for disaster management; Lesotho - drought relief coordination; Malawi - coordination of drought disaster; Mozambique - cholera control, assessment of environmental impact of Katina oil spill, emergency assistance in the aftermath of the cyclone Nadia, and district development mapping; Namibia - strengthening of the United Nations Disaster Management Team; Tanzania - support to flood victims in Korogwe and Zanzibar and to the Burundi refugees; Zambia - support during drought emergency and cholera outbreak; and Zimbabwe - drought preparedness and mitigation and support to the technical secretariat of the Drought Relief Task Force.

3. United Nations Environment Programme

15. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided support to facilitate the participation of the front-line States and neighbouring States in the African Global Consultations of Government-designated experts on the International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology held in Cairo, Egypt in July and December 1995, respectively. It also continued to maintain close relations with SADC and its member States through support for specific actions relating to drought and desertification in this subregion. The actions taken include a planning and programming workshop held in Pretoria in South Africa in March 1995 and a SADC consultative meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, in January 1996 to review progress in the subregional action programmes preparation process in the SADC region.

16. At the national level, UNEP continued to cooperate with the front-line States to strengthen their existing environmental policies, laws and institutions and to implement national strategies and action plans for sustainable development. Within the framework of the Attachment Programme, UNEP provided support for an attachment training of Senior Legal Adviser/Officers from Mozambique and Malawi to the Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre in UNEP.

4. World Food Programme

17. The World Food Programme (WFP) continues to collaborate with the front-line States. Since the last reporting period (October 1992 to June 1994), substantial assistance has been provided for both emergency and development operations. From July 1994 to June 1996, WFP committed a total of US$ 176 million to Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia. Most of this assistance, US$ 153.9 million or 87 per cent, was allocated to emergency projects with the remainder programmed for development projects.

18. A substantial proportion of emergency assistance provided, US$ 65.1 million, went to countries affected by drought. WFP distributed emergency food rations, and implemented food-for-work projects where possible, in Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland. WFP also provided emergency assistance worth about US$ 88.8 million to Rwandan and Burundian refugees in Tanzania and a small portion of the assistance went to Angolan and Zairian refugees in Zambia.

19. New development assistance approved from July 1994 to June 1996 included a reconstruction and rehabilitation programme in Mozambique and a vulnerable group feeding programme in Malawi. WFP, together with the World Bank, has launched the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme to assist in the resettlement of refugees and the return of internally displaced persons, including demobilized soldiers, through the rehabilitation of the health and education basic infrastructure destroyed during the war. WFP committed US$ 11.9 million to cover the food-for-work component of this project. For the development project in Malawi, WFP committed US$ 10.2 million.

5. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

20. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS (Habitat)) made a significant contribution to the formulation of the Community Rehabilitation and National Reconciliation Programme for Angola, which was presented to the Round-Table Conference in Brussels on 25-27 September 1995. In response to a request from the Government of Mozambique for Sustainable Cities Programme demonstration projects in Maputo and Nampula, project documents have been developed and implementation is expected to commence in 1996. UNCHS (Habitat) assisted the Government of Namibia in developing the National Housing Programme (commonly known as the Build Together Programme) which was based on the principle of support to community and individual efforts.

21. UNCHS (Habitat) is continuing to execute the "Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project" in Tanzania which has successfully introduced a participatory environmental planning and management process and attracted considerable support from numerous donor agencies and the Government. The process introduced in Dar es Salaam is currently being extended to other urban centres throughout the country. As a cooperating agency, UNCHS (Habitat) is supporting the Government of Zambia in developing the "National Urban and Semi-Urban Settlements Management Programme". UNCHS (Habitat) provided technical assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe in the preparation of National Shelter Strategies and strengthened the institutional capacity in policy-making and housing programming at the national, provincial and local levels.

6. International Labour Organization

22. The following summaries are the activities of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the front-line States: Botswana: development of national population policy, follow-up programme of the factories inspectorate; Lesotho: employment policy formulation and labour market analysis, strengthening of the factories inspectorate (OSH Unit) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment,

entrepreneurship for labour-based road maintenance contractors, skill development for employment and capacity enhancement at Thaba Tseka Skills Training Centre (TSTC); Namibia: manpower survey and establishment of a labour market information system, assistance to employers in Namibia, establishment of a population planning unit, affirmative action project, technical support for the initiation of a social security scheme in Namibia, consultancy on draft employment policy, human resources development for community-based rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; South Africa: prevention and resolution of conflict and promotion of workplace democracy, Improve Your Business training project for trainers and managers for managing diversity, strengthening South African employers through technical cooperation activities, assistance for the preparation of Employment Standards Statute, strengthening of teaching capacities of the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Natal, workers' education assistance to farm workers; Swaziland: TSS-1 Study on unemployment in Swaziland, follow-up programme of the factories inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour and Public Service; Regional: promotion of women in private sector activities through employers' organizations.

7. World Health Organization

23. During the period 1995-1996, health policy experts have been appointed in the World Health Organization (WHO) office in Luanda, in order to support the Ministry of Health in the development of a health policy, integrating both the short-term demobilization and relief aspects, to the more long-term ones towards sustainable health development. A health planning adviser was seconded for a two-year period to assist the Ministry of Health in health policy development. United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) have been recruited to work with the provincial authorities in epidemiological surveillance, prevention of communicable diseases, and development of health services at the provincial level.

24. In 1995, a technical support mission was sent to Lesotho with overall objective of strengthening the Ministry of Health's negotiating position, internally and externally with partners; and to review the national health development plan and develop a strategy for resource mobilization and donor coordination. In March 1996, technical support was extended to the Sectoral Round-Table Consultations in Lesotho (agriculture, environment, tourism, health and population).

25. The great influx of returnees and the sporadic cyclones that hit Mozambique in 1995 contributed to an outbreak of meningococcus meningitis in October in the northern part of the country, as well as several other communicable diseases. WHO provided the Ministry of Health with medicines and medical supplies to deal with these outbreaks.

26. In 1994-1995, following the support provided in the area of health policy and planning as well as in definition of proposals for decentralized projects through bilaterals, WHO's work focused on the following: definition of a post-war strategy for rehabilitation of the public health sector and sustained development; definition of possible health-care financing alternative; technical support and training of nationals in developing a health insurance scheme;

completing policy frameworks on resource allocation and urban health care; and providing technical support in the areas of health insurance.

8. World Bank

27. The Bank has actively worked with the countries of southern Africa and with SADC. The current (FY96) list of projects approved are as follows: Angola, social action project, $24 million; Lesotho, road rehabilitation and maintenance project, $40 million; Mozambique, health sector recovery programme, $98.7 million; Malawi, social action fund project, $56 million, fiscal restructuring and deregulation programme, $102 million, fiscal restructuring and deregulation programme (IDA reflows), $4.4 million, primary education project, $22.5 million; Zimbabwe, enterprise development project, $70 million. Efforts to increase the growth of export-based output and to broaden participation in economic activity, in particular by indigenous firms, will be supported.

9. International Monetary Fund

28. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has continued to cooperate with the front-line States and their neighbouring countries through contacts between the Director of the Fund's Office at the United Nations (who is also the Special Representative of the Fund at the United Nations) and directly in the context of its work with these countries. The main vehicles for cooperation include: financial assistance, external debt and aid coordination, policy advice, surveillance and technical assistance.

29. The Malawian Government intensified its adjustment efforts in early 1995 in the context of a comprehensive medium-term programme. The programme was subsequently supported by an Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) arrangement (for an amount of SDR 46 million, 90 per cent of quota). In June 1996, the Fund approved Mozambique's request for a new three-year ESAF arrangement for an amount of SDR 75.6 million (90 per cent of quota). The Fund is providing technical assistance through the posting of a customs administration adviser in Maputo; a Fund resident representative will also be posted in Maputo during 1996.

30. The Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) has provided technical assistance to Namibia through a mission on tax administration (in December 1995) and through long-term advisers in the areas of general fiscal/budget operations, tax administration and tax computerization. FAD consultants visited Swaziland in March 1995 and in April 1996 to help reform the income tax law. A Monetary and Exchange Affairs Department (MAE) mission was in Swaziland in January 1995 to provide technical assistance in foreign exchange management and banking supervision. An MAE consultant visited Swaziland in August 1995 to advise the authorities on reform options for the Swaziland Savings and Development Bank.

31. Tanzania continued to benefit from Fund technical assistance, most recently in the areas of monetary management and statistics. Following completion of the rights accumulation programme (1992-1995), Zambia's arrears to the Fund (SDR 830 billion) were cleared in December 1995 and parallel SAF/ESAF

arrangements (SDR 884 million, equivalent to 243 per cent of quota) were approved. MAE continues to provide technical assistance to the Bank of Zambia, most recently through an expert on bank supervision. The Fund's MAE department has provided technical assistance to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to review monetary and foreign exchange operations, securities markets and information technology.

10. Universal Postal Union

32. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) assisted the postal administrations of the countries concerned, mainly in modernizing their organizational structures and in improving the quality of their service to the urban and rural communities they serve. The main thrust is on reorganizing the postal sector into a self-financing entity so that it ceases to be a drain on public expenditure. The UPU assistance to the front-line States takes one of several of the following forms: expert mission for sector review; execution of technical assistance programme financed by the UPU, UNDP or other sources; training programmes in different management and operational fields; financing participation in high-level regional meetings; supply of equipment to help improve postal infrastructure; and assistance to generate international assistance for development programmes. The countries benefiting from these activities include Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

11. World Meteorological Organization

33. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has continued to cooperate with SADC countries, on an individual and collective basis. A major regional project being implemented involves two drought monitoring centres, located in Harare and Nairobi. Under phase II of the project, which started in January 1995, US$ 500,000 was provided for both centres. WMO is also working with the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC), the SADC body responsible for coordinating the development of meteorological services, to secure an additional contribution of US$ 500,000 for the Harare Centre from the Belgium Government.

34. In 1995, WMO completed the implementation of the FINNIDA/SATCC/WMO Meteorology project, started in 1987, in conjunction with the Finnish Meteorological Institute. The total project budget amounted approximately to US$ 15 million, of which US$ 6.3 million was used for fellowships and experts services, and US$ 8.7 million for equipment. The project made a substantial contribution to the development of a core of well-trained scientific and technical experts in the various specialized areas of meteorology. It also helped establish a strong foundation for meaningful sustainable development at both national and regional levels.

35. In the water sector, WMO, in collaboration with SADC-ELMS (Environment and Land Management Sector), has developed the project for the SADC regional component of the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS), which has received funding from the European Union totalling 1,964,000 ECUs. The expected outputs of the projects are: the establishment of a network of benchmark

hydrological stations equipped with satellite-based Data Collection Platform (DCP), the improvement of data exchange and dissemination system through the use of WMO's Global Telecommunication System and electronic computer networks, the establishment of hydrological databases, and the production of hydrological user-oriented products. The attainment of these objectives will be supported also with training programmes and institutional capacity-building. The expected project duration is two years.

12. International Maritime Organization

36. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is arranging various projects for implementation in 1997, or as soon as possible thereafter, with a view to assisting the front-line States to establish or upgrade their maritime administrations. It will also conduct feasibility studies to identify a suitable location for the establishment of a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System for Eastern and Southern Africa, which will have a beneficial impact on these States.

13. World Intellectual Property Organization

37. In January 1994, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) prepared and sent to the Tanzanian Government suggestions for the revision of the industrial property law. In March, two Tanzanian government officials undertook a study visit to WIPO at the invitation of the Director-General of WIPO. WIPO also organized for them a visit to the Swiss Federal Intellectual Property Office in Berne and the Swiss Society for Author's Rights in Musical Works (SUISA) in Zurich. In August, WIPO organized in Gaborone an African introductory course on industrial property in cooperation with the Government of Botswana.

38. A WIPO official undertook a mission in November 1994 to Dar es Salaam to install a CD-ROM workstation offered by WIPO. Training in the use of the various searching methods offered by the CD-ROM station was given to the staff concerned. In 1994, WIPO delivered free state-of-the-art search reports to Botswana and Tanzania and provided free copies of patent documents to Botswana and Zimbabwe. During 1994 and 1995, the following WIPO training fellowships were granted to government officials from the following countries: Angola, Botswana, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

39. In October, WIPO organized a study visit for two Botswana government officials to WIPO's headquarters in Geneva, where they held discussions with WIPO officials on the revised draft industrial property bill. WIPO organized the National Seminar on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights in August in Kitwe in cooperation with the Government of Zambia. In 1995, WIPO delivered free state-of-the-art search reports to the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and also provided free copies of patent documents to Zimbabwe.

14. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

40. In 1995-1996, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) technical cooperation programmes with the front-line States focused on, inter alia, the following: developing support strategies and formulating policies for accelerated industrial development; providing support for developing existing industries and industrial infrastructures; private sector development with emphasis on strengthening private sector institutions; small and medium enterprises development; and industrial information investment and technology promotion.